

Beth sat on the front porch hugging her cat. It was summertime and the day was hot and sticky. Beth's mother said "It is too hot to be hugging that cat," but Beth didn't listen. No matter how hot it was, Beth loved to hug her cat. Beth's cat was named Tiger. That seemed to be very good name for a cat with orange and yellow fur.

Beth and Tiger lived at the end of a dirt road far out in the country. Beth and Tiger liked to go out and walk in the woods around Beth's house. The woods were cool and dark during the hot summertime.

One summer day, the temperature climbed to 100 degrees. Beth and her mother sat rocking on the back porch in the shade, trying to keep cool. Finally, Beth said, "I can't stand it. It's too hot. Tiger and I are going out into the woods."

As Beth and Tiger were walking in the woods, they heard a noise in a bush behind them. Beth turned around to look at the bush where they had heard the noise. Beth turned around in time to see a skunk slide out of the bush. "Oh, no," said Beth. "A skunk can make a terrible smell." She turned to run away. Tiger was not scared of the skunk, and he ran up to the skunk and hissed. When Tiger hissed, the skunk didn't like it. It turned around and sprayed Tiger with the most terrible smell. Tiger yowled and ran home with Beth chasing after him.

Beth's mother came to the steps when she saw Beth and Tiger running toward her. Before they came to the porch, she could smell the terrible skunk smell and began to hold her nose. "Don't you let that cat into the house," Momma said. "The only thing I know that will get rid

of the skunk smell is tomato juice. We'll have to give Tiger a bath in tomato juice."

So Momma went to the grocery store and bought lots of tomato juice to bathe Tiger in. Beth and her mother put Tiger in the bathtub and scrubbed him all over with the tomato juice. The more they scrubbed, the better Tiger smelled, and soon the skunk smell was gone. "You must be careful when you go into the woods," Momma said to Beth as they were drying off Tiger with an old towel. However, Beth and Tiger had learned their lesson, and they did not want to go into the woods again soon.

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